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HUNGARIAN GRAPE-GROWING VILLAGE BECOMES MINING TOWN

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Gyongyos, formerly a grape-producing village in the foothills of the Matra range, has become a congested industrial and mining city which is unable to provide adequate housing, food, school, and health facilities to a rapidly expanding population.

In addition to grape cultivation and mining (coal, quartz, ore, and a special type of stone used for lining smelting furnaces), the city boasts two important factories: the recently expanded brick factory, which has produced over a million bricks this year, and the 35-acre Railroad Siding and Switch Factory (Valto-es Kiterogyar), which was built about 2 years ago.

According to Dr Lajos Dobsa, chief of the jaras health service, the dispensary for the area is equipped to care for 3,000 persons, but there are now ten times that number of potential patients. Besides the Rozsaszentmarton coal mine, the Petofi mine, the Gyongyosorosoz ore mine, and Gyongyos Mine No 12, the dispensary is responsible for 41 other service areas and 60 villages. A year ago the Health Ministry appropriated money for the expansion of the dispensary, but construction facilities were not available.

One of the most serious problems is the shortage of vegetables. The vineyards occupy most of the arable land, and the water supply is inadequate for gardening.

To ease the housing shortage, construction has been started on 30 dwelling units, but it is estimated that at least three times this number are needed. The construction of office space would help considerably, because it would make available as dwelling units many houses and shops which are now occupied by offices.

The city's expansion has necessitated the construction of new streets and sidewalks. Engineers estimate that the traffic load on the streets has increased by 50 times. Daily, 107 buses leave the MAVAUT (Magyar Allamvasutak Autobusz Uzeme, Bus Service of the Hungarian State Railways) station.

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